



For Immediate Release

Easton, MD – April 27, 2022

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Talbot County Council Meeting Highlights, Tuesday, April 26, 2022

These highlights only reflect the business items covered from the Council's approved agenda. To view the complete County Council meeting, please visit: Talbot County Meeting Videos - Talbot County, Maryland (www.talbotcountymd.gov).

- I. Update by Talbot Humane – Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, Executive Director, Talbot Humane gave the Council an update on Talbot Humane. She reported the following since coming before the Council in November 2021:
- 701 animals adopted reunited with owners, relocated, or transferred to other rescue groups
 - 1,230 animals were spayed or neutered and 1,300 animals were microchipped.
 - 176 people benefited from the retention and intervention program
 - 7 tons of food disbursed to Talbot County residents
 - Partnered with CarePacks to extend Talbot Humane's reach into the community
 - 9,000 volunteer hours last year – can still use volunteers
 - 14% increase in animal intake in FY 2021 over 2020 and 13% increase in intake in FY 2022 same time period in 2021 – a trend that's across the country
 - 65 animals currently in care - received 15 kittens this week
 - 260 initial Animal Control calls thus far this fiscal year – still actively hiring for an Animal Control Officer
 - offering \$1 microchipping services
 - 8th year of Department of Agriculture spay-neuter grant - \$31,500 to provide 500 surgeries for dogs and cats free of charge for those qualifying within Talbot and Dorchester counties and reduced cost surgeries for residents who don't necessarily qualify for free surgeries. Completed 290 surgeries to date.
 - Animal Cruelty and Humane Violence Awareness Week last week – decrease in cruelty in our county since we've instituted new regulations over the past few years

- Senior internship program – Gunston students participating this year
- The 90th Anniversary of Talbot Humane is August 3, 2022
- In November 2021 was able to purchase the adjacent property; now beginning detailed work of planning the goal of a state of the art facility for pets, people, and wildlife

II. Presentation of Priority Listing to Maryland Department of Transportation – Ray Clarke, County Engineer presented an updated TALBOT COUNTY PROJECT PRIORITY LISTING FOR THE CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM 2022 to the Council. The Council asked to reorder the priorities presented to the following:

- #1: MD Route 322/US 50 Intersection – North
- #2: MD Route 33 Capacity and Evacuation Improvements
- #3: MD Route 333, Oxford Causeway
- #4: MD Route 329 (Royal Oak Road) Safety Improvements
- #5-A: US Route 50/MD Route 328 – Goldsborough Street Intersection Improvements
- #5-B: MD Route 50/MD Route 331 – Dover Street Intersection Improvements
- #5-C: US Route 50/Chapel Road - Intersection Improvements
- #6: US Route 50/MD Route 309/MD Route 662 Intersection Capacity Improvements

Council discussion included removing the mention of an overpass on Route 50 and that the Council should hold a work session with the Town of Easton on the priorities listed as #5A-#5C.

This Priority Listing is required to be submitted to the Maryland Department of Transportation by April of each year in advance of the annual Consolidated Transportation Plan meeting held in each county with representation from the Maryland Department of Transportation every fall (date TBD).

III. Continuation of Public Hearings: 6:30 p.m.

Numbered Resolutions:

The public hearings on Resolutions 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, and 321 involved amendments to the Talbot County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan. These resolutions are designed to provide environmental mitigation efforts to stabilize the sewer infrastructure and to add additional connections to the source system, therefore alleviating failing septic systems in Talbot County.

Mr. Clarke reported that the Public Works Advisory Board recommended the County Council adopt Resolutions Nos. 315-321 by a vote of 3-0 (two members of the Public Works Advisory Board were absent from the March 17 meeting when the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan amendments were discussed). Miguel Salinas reported that the Planning Commission certified consistency of Resolutions Nos. 315-321 with the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan by a vote of 5-0.

The Council unanimously approved Resolutions No. 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, and 321.

Council member Pack commented, “Stabilizing our sewer infrastructure in the Bay Hundred area is another step forward for the county – for our quality of life, for the environment, and our property values. These improvements will help enhance water quality in the region. I want to thank Mr. Clarke for his hard work on making these improvements happen.”

Resolution No. 322, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECLASSIFYING AND REMAPPING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON UNIONVILLE ROAD, EASTON, MARYLAND, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 24, AS PARCEL 129, FROM UNPROGRAMMED TO “S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS (*Kemp*)

Mr. Clarke reported that the Public Works Advisory Board recommended the County Council adopt Resolutions No. 322 with a stipulation noted by a vote of 3-0 (two members of the Public Works Advisory Board were absent from the March 17 meeting when the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan amendments were discussed). Miguel Salinas reported that the Planning Commission certified consistency of Resolutions No. 322 with the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan by a vote of 5-0.

The Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No. 322.

Resolution No. 323, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECLASSIFYING AND REMAPPING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON ST. MICHAELS ROAD (MARYLAND ROUTE 33), EASTON, MARYLAND AND SHOWN ON TAX MAP 33 AS PARCELS 38 AND 105 FROM UNPROGRAMMED TO “S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS (*Kirkham Station*)

Mr. Clarke reported that the Public Works Advisory Board (PWAB) recommended that Resolution No. 175 be amended for this one-time exception specifically for the Kirkham Station property. The Talbot County Planning Commission asked that they review Resolution No. 323 at their May 4 meeting.

Council member Pack asked that the Council not take any action on this resolution in order to re-examine Resolution No. 175. The Council will leave the resolution open for public comment until May 10, 2022.

Resolution No. 324, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECLASSIFYING AND REMAPPING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 26491 ROYAL OAK ROAD (MARYLAND ROUTE 329), ROYAL OAK,

MARYLAND AND SHOWN ON TAX MAP 41 AS PARCEL 156 AND CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON ROYAL OAK ROAD (MARYLAND ROUTE 329), ROYAL OAK, MARYLAND AND SHOWN ON TAX MAP 41 AS PARCEL 233, LOT 1 FROM UNPROGRAMMED TO “S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS *(Stevenson/McEachern)*

Mr. Clarke reported that the Public Works Advisory Board recommended the County Council adopt Resolution No. 324 by a vote of 3-0 (two members of the Public Works Advisory Board were absent from the March 17 meeting when the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan amendments were discussed).

Mr. Salinas reported that the Talbot County Planning Commission certified the consistency of Resolution No. 324 with the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan by a vote of 4-0-1 (Mr. Boicourt abstained).

The Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No. 324.

Resolution No. 325, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECLASSIFYING AND REMAPPING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 26383 ROYAL OAK ROAD (MARYLAND ROUTE 329), EASTON, MARYLAND AND SHOWN ON TAX MAP 41 AS PARCEL 214 FROM UNPROGRAMMED TO “S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS *(Stockhausen)*

Mr. Clarke reported that the Public Works Advisory Board recommended the County Council adopt Resolution No. 325 by a vote of 3-0 (two members of the Public Works Advisory Board were absent from the March 17 meeting when the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan amendments were discussed).

Mr. Salinas reported that the Talbot County Planning Commission certified the consistency of Resolution No. 325 with the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan by a vote of 5-0.

The Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No. 325.

Resolution No. 326, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO AUTHORIZE TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND’S ACQUISITION OF THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SERVING THE PRESERVE AT WYE MILLS WITH THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT BEING LOCATED AT RUSTLING OAKS DRIVE, WYE MILLS, MARYLAND 21679, DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 01, PARCEL 98

The Public Works Advisory Board recommended the Council adopt Resolution No. 326 by a vote of 3-0 with two amendments. The first one is in Section 8 addressing when new homeowners are connected to the Preserve at Wye Mills Sanitary District they shall be assessed a connection fee of at least \$15,000. The second item is to add to Section 10 that

the Homeowners Association shall remain responsible for any problems resulting from the operation of the plant prior to Talbot County's ownership. The Talbot County Planning Commission certified consistency of Resolution No. 326 with the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan by a vote of 4-0-1 (Mr. Councill abstained as he is a neighboring property owner).

Council discussion ensued. The Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No. 326 as originally drafted.

Council member Divilio stated, "Mr. Phil Jackson called me up with this problem and I knew to call County Engineer Mr. Clarke and Council member Pack to get this issue resolved. I really want to thank you both for your help and the County's Office of Law at that time for giving us the context that we needed to immediately address the situation. I really would like to compliment Mr. Clarke for how quickly he responded to help clean this up."

Council member Pack added, "I want to tip my hat to Phil Jackson, for all that he's done for the citizens at the Preserve at Wye Mills. He's been on the front line of this thing working with his team to try to get this thing addressed. Anything that we've asked him, he has been very open to getting back to us – working alongside state partners. That's the kind of residents that we all like to see here in the county. He took this problem on and made sure that it was solved. Kudos to Phil for that."

Resolution No. 327, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROVIDING THAT START-UP WASTEWATER TREATMENT FOR PHASE 1, SECTION 1 OF THE LAKESIDE PROJECT AND ITS TREATED EFFLUENT SHALL AT LEAST MEET ENHANCED NUTRIENT REMOVAL STANDARDS AND FURTHER PROVIDING THAT CONNECTION TO THE EXISTING TRAPPE WASTEWATER SYSTEM IS CONDITIONED IN PART UPON THE EXISTING SYSTEM NOT HAVING ANY OUTSTANDING MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, CONSENT ORDERS, OR VIOLATIONS

Mr. Clarke reported that the Public Works Advisory Board approved "no recommendation" by a vote of 3-0.

County Planner Miguel Salinas reported that the Talbot County Planning Commission certified consistency of Resolution No. 327 with the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan Planning Commission, adding an amendment that it be subject to the Council adding language to the resolution clarifying that ENR standards are also applicable for any direct connection to the existing Trappe Wastewater Treatment Plant by a vote of 4-0-1 (Mr. Spies abstained).

Council member Price requested keeping the public hearing open on Resolution No. 327 to allow the Public Works Advisory Board to make a recommendation.

Council member Pack made a motion for the Council to vote on Resolution No. 327 which was seconded by Council member Divilio.

Council Vice President Leshner and Council member Price voted in favor of Resolution No. 327 and Council members Divilio, Pack and Council President Callahan voted against Resolution No. 327. The resolution did not pass.

Resolution No. 328, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO REVISE CHAPTER THREE – AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

Mr. Clarke reported that by a vote of 3-0, the Public Works Advisory Board recommended that the Council approve Resolution No. 328 with the following amendments:

- 1) end of the first paragraph where it says June or September, they would recommend adding, “except for amendments initiated by the County Council,” and
- 2) in the procedures at the end of the last paragraph, they recommended deleting, “the application procedure set forth herein shall not apply any comprehensive water and sewer plan amendment initiated by the county which may be introduced on any legislative day.”

Mr. Salinas reported that the Talbot County Planning Commission certified by a vote of 5-0 that Resolution No. 328 was consistent with the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan. The Commission also conveyed that staff draft language as part of the CWSP update to ensure intergovernmental cooperation.

Council Vice President Leshner commented, “There's no reason for us to amend this on the fly. Let's provide that instruction to the County Attorney and have the language to review at the next meeting and we can take care of this properly without rushing into it.”

Resolution No. 328 will remain open until May 10.

Resolution No. 329, A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR LARGE-SCALE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS BEYOND THE SPECIAL EXCEPTION STAGE FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) MONTHS PENDING CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF SUCH LEGISLATION AS THE COUNTY COUNCIL MAY CONSIDER ADVISABLE TO PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE

Mr. Salinas and Brennan Tarleton, Assistant Planning Officer reported on the Joint Work Session held with the Talbot County Council and Planning Commission on large-scale solar energy systems. He added that the Talbot County Planning Commission is

supportive of Resolution No. 329 in order to create a timetable and a work plan to take a look at the agricultural offsets for large-scale solar energy systems in a way that will fit within that five-month timeframe. The Commission can then come back to the Council with recommendations for minimal amendments to the text of the solar regulations in Chapter 190.

Council Vice President Leshner made a motion to vote on Resolution No. 329 stating, “The only testimony we've had has been supportive of this moratorium. We drafted this for as short as possible moratorium of five months. In recent reporting, however, we've seen that the distribution cooperative agreement among power companies in an 11-state area revealed that there is a huge backlog of approvals for large-scale solar projects. Many states are suspending reviews of any solar projects, so they can overhaul their review processes. Pushing forward any reviews here before Talbot County revises its process will not help any potential solar developer because they can't get through the distribution network approvals anyway. I think it's entirely appropriate that we move forward with this and I'm prepared to support it.”

The Council approved Resolution No. 329 by a vote of 4-0-1 with Council Vice President Leshner and Council members Divilio, Callahan and Price voting in favor of Resolution No. 329. Council member Pack abstained.

IV. Eligible for Vote:

Bill No. 1497, A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 24 (BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS) OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE IN ORDER TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE V ENTITLED “POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGING COMMITTEE”

County Attorney Patrick Thomas explained that the legislation is mandated pursuant to Chapter 59, Laws of Maryland 2021, Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 as adopted by the Maryland General Assembly. The language under the laws of the 2021 Maryland Police Accountability Act left some flexibility. He worked with Talbot County Sheriff Gamble, law enforcement from the municipalities, County staff, and the Council in public work sessions to develop what local options there are in this bill.

Council member Pack added, “This was a good collaborative effort between the Office of Law and Sheriff's Office, as well as municipal police. This was something that was pushed down upon the counties to deal with as far as the Police Accountability Board and Administrative Charging Committees. We just had to make sure that we were doing this as a responsible thing. I think everyone should be pleased as to what we're trying to accomplish here.”

The Council voted unanimously to approve Bill No. 1497.

V. Continuation of Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds and Results of Community Survey – Pete Leshner, Vice-President, Talbot County Council and Cassandra Vanhooser, Director of Economic Development and Tourism

The members of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Task Force including Council member Pete Leshner, Chair; County Manager Clay Stamp; Assistant County Manager Jessica Morris; Finance Officer Joye Nagle; Ken Calcagnini, Grants Clerk; Director of Economic Development and Tourism Cassandra Vanhooser; County Engineer Ray Clarke; and Nancy Andrew, Executive Director, Talbot Family Network presented at the March 22, 2022 Talbot County Council meeting.

The Task Force is recommending Council consideration of investment of \$4.5 million in ARPA funds to the following:

- \$1.75 million for broadband to underserved and unserved areas of the County (*approved March 22*)
- \$105,000 for the Chesapeake Center to connect to County sewer due to a failing septic system (*approved March 22*)
- \$1 million for the 911 center in the northern part of the county and EMS station (to offset the County's capital projects)
- \$300,000 for an ambulance for the Department of Emergency Services
- \$500,000 to the Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association for a grant over 2 years to apply for equipment and other needs (*approved March 22*)
- \$250,000 for a nonprofit grant fund
- \$150,000 to replenish the Food Banks
- \$50,000 for the Talbot County Free Library to upgrade audiovisual needs in the meeting room used by the community
- \$160,000 for a cybersecurity upgrade for Talbot County Government
- \$235,000 for administrative costs for personnel

\$2.7 million will remain in reserve to be used at a later date for needs not fully defined.

The Council voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Task Force to allocate the ARPA funds.

On the Community Survey results, Council member Pack stated, "It was very useful to see where the citizens felt that this funding should go. Of course, you always have to stay within the guidelines that the federal government gives you. I was glad to see that they gave more latitude than they did for the CARES funding and we're working with that."

VI. County Manager's Report summary:

Request – Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association – Mr. Phil Starkey the President of the Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association requested Council approval to fund the required disposal of existing firefighting foam that has been determined to be hazardous, as well as its replacement. This foam is maintained for all Talbot County Volunteer Fire Companies for use as necessary. The request included a disposal cost of

\$15,903.75 and the cost of replacement of \$49,185.50, which would be funded using the American Rescue Act funding.

Ms. Price confirmed that the State of Maryland had approved legislation SB273 at the end of the Maryland General Assembly session which requires that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), upon the request of a fire department, purchase back B fire-fighting foam that contains intentionally added PFAS chemicals for the price that the fire department paid when it purchased the fire-fighting foam. This will save the county the \$15,903.75 estimated for the disposal of the foam. President Starkey acknowledged these savings.

Council approved the request of \$49,185.50 to purchase the replacement firefighting foam using ARPA funds designated for the fire companies. President Starkey thanked the County Council for their ongoing support on behalf of the Talbot County volunteer fire companies.

Request Award of Bid 22-09, County Roads - Mr. Stamp requested on behalf of the County Roads department the award of Bid 22-09, Furnishing and Delivery, with Possible Application of CRS-2L, Emulsified Asphalt with Polymer and/or CRS-2 Emulsified Asphalt to the low bidder, Slurry Pavers, Inc. and noted that sufficient funds are in place to cover the purchase.

The Council voted unanimously to approve this request.

Request for Letter of Support – Mr. Stamp and Mr. Thomas presented a letter with Council requested amendments to support the proposed construction of a new Chesapeake Bay Bridge in the location of the current Chesapeake Bay Bridge, as well as to support funding for NEPA Phase II evaluation. After a brief discussion, Council approved sending the letter of support which was requested by the Queen Anne's County Commissioners.

The County Council's next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 3rd beginning at 1:30 p.m.** The Council will be holding two public hearings on Bill No. 1498, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE 2022-2023 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE on that date: 2:00 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room and at 7:00 p.m. in the Easton Elementary School Cafeteria located at 307 Glenwood Avenue in Easton.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Captions:

#1: Pictured is Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, Executive Director of Talbot Humane, who gave the Council an update on Talbot Humane.



#2: Pictured left to right are Miguel Salinas, Talbot County Planner and Ray Clarke, Talbot County Engineer answering questions about amendments to the Talbot County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan.

